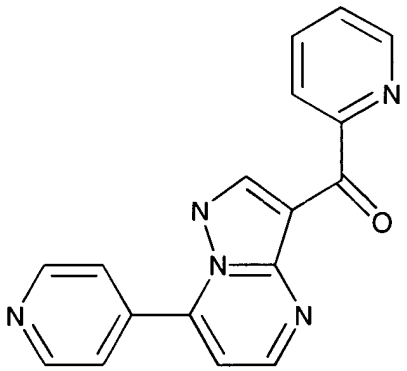
What is claimed is:

[cl1] 1. A method for treating anxiety in a patient in need of said treatment comprising orally administering to said patient as an active ingredient, an anti-anxiety compound of the formula



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

at a daily dosage of from about 50 to 250 mg, with said daily oral dose having a first portion of the active ingredient in an rapid release form and the remaining portion of said active ingredient in a sustained release form, said proportion of said active ingredient in the rapid release form administered being from about 1 to about 4 times the weight of the portion administered in sustained release form.

[cl2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the daily dose is administered in from 1 to 3 administrations per day.

[cl3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said active ingredient is administered as tablets.

[cl4] 4. The method of claim 2, wherein each of said separate administrations, the sustained release portion is administered in combination with the rapid release portion.

[cl5] 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the daily dose of said anti-anxiety compound is from about 120 to 240 mg.

[cl6] 6. The method of claim 5, wherein in each of said administrations the proportion of said active ingredient in the rapid release portion form is about 2.5 to 3.5 times the weight of the portion in the slow release portion.

[cl7] 7. The method of claim 3, wherein in each of said administrations the slow release portion is administered together with the rapid release portions.

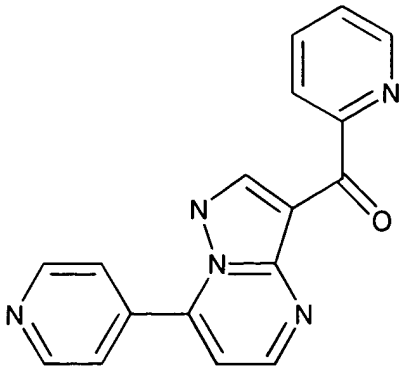
[cl8] 8. The method of claim 7, wherein in each of said administrations, the slow release portion and the rapid release portion are administered in a single tablet.

[cl9] 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said tablet contains the active ingredient rapid release form in an amount of about 3 times the weight of the active ingredient slow release form.

[cl10] 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the tablets administered contain about 10 mg of the active ingredient in its sustained release form and about 30 mg of the active ingredient in its rapid release form.

[cl11] 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the tablets administered contain about 30 mg of the active ingredient in its sustained release form and about 90 mg of the active ingredient in its rapid release form.

[cl12] 12. A pharmaceutical oral unit dosage form comprising two separate compartments each containing a composition comprised a pharmaceutically active ingredient selected from the group consisting of the compound of the formula



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and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

in a mixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said active ingredient being present in the unit dosage form in an amount of from about 50 to about 250 mg, with the amount of said ingredient in the first compartment being from about 1 to about 4 times the weight of said active ingredient in the second compartment, the composition in the first compartment being adapted for rapid release of said active ingredient contained therein and the composition in the second compartment having incorporated therein a hydrophilic polymeric matrix which causes sustained release of the active ingredient in the second compartment.

[cl13] 13. The unit dosage form of claim 12, wherein the oral dosage form is a tablet.

[cl14] 14. The unit dosage form of claim 13, wherein the composition has a particle size diameter less than 250 microns.

[cl15] 15. The unit dosage form of claim 14, wherein the polymeric matrix is hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

[cl16] 16. The unit dosage form of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in each of said compartments is fast flow lactose.

[cl17] 17. The unit dosage form of claim 14, wherein the active ingredient is present in the unit dosage form in an amount of from about 80 to about 240 mg.

[cl18] 18. The unit dosage form of claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is present in the unit dosage form in an amount of from about 120 to about 240 mg.

[cl19] 19. The unit dosage form of claim 18, wherein the active ingredient is in the rapid release portion is in an amount of about 2.5 to 3.5 times the weight of the active ingredient in the sustained release portion.

[cl20] 20. The unit dosage form of claim 19, wherein the tablet contains about 30 mg of the active ingredient in the sustained release form and about 90 mg of the active ingredient in the rapid release form.

[cl21] 21. The unit dosage form of claim 20 wherein the tablet contains from about 10 mg of the active ingredient in sustained release form and about 30 mg of the active ingredient in rapid release form.